



GENERAL RELIEF & CAPI PROGRAMS SECTION NEWSLETTER

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

◆ Veteran Affairs

◆ DPSS - Public Defender SSIMAP Project

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

◆ DPSS-PD Success Story.

◆ GOT H.ELP?

◆ Full Service Partnerships (FSP)

Veteran Affairs

GR Section Veteran Affairs:

Did you know that many of our General Relief (GR) participants are Veterans (VA), or are spouses and dependents of those who have served in the military? A significant amount of this population might qualify for VA benefits and not know it. GR program is currently working on a Veteran project to identify those who have served in the military and assist them in finding resources that can improve their way of living. We welcome your suggestions. Please contact the Veteran Affairs representative in our GR Section. Together we can make a positive impact in our community! Let us serve those who have served our country!



Please visit our Veterans & U.S. Military Resources Website: We welcome you to log on to lacounty.gov. This site provides information on benefits, services, and resources at a local community level throughout Los Angeles County to assist those who have been in military service, veterans and their families connect with needed services.



DPSS-Public Defender SSIMAP Project: On February 9, 2010, the Board of Supervisors approved a comprehensive plan to restructure the GR Program. The plan was designed to reduce the GR caseload by reducing homelessness, enhancing Supplemental Security Income (SSI) advocacy efforts, and strengthening employment preparation services. The Board approved 42 projects, one of the projects is the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)-Public Defender (PD) Supplemental Security Income & Medi-Cal Advocacy Program (SSIMAP) Services Pilot created to integrate physically and/or mentally disabled PD clients who are on GR into the provision of SSI advocacy services by combining them with client's representation in court.

The PD pilot is staffed to identify severely disabled PD clients in GR who may be potentially eligible for SSI to be referred to the DPSS SSIMAP Advocate for advocacy services. This approach was combined with out-reaching to PD collaborative court treatment program clients who had mental health, physical health, trauma and substance abuse issues and who were more likely to meet the SSI disability criteria. Two of the collaborative treatment programs are the Co-Occurring Disorders Court and the Women's Reentry Court.

PD Success Stories: A client was referred by a Compton felony Deputy PD in April 2012. After pilot staff screened the client on LEADER, we learned that he had several different "temporary" disabilities listed continuously over the past three years with no referral to an SSI Advocate. In the course of the application process with the client, we soon realized that the client had a great amount of difficulty understanding basic questions. Even though he is 19 years old, he has never driven, he is unable to take public transportation, and he is mentally disadvantaged. The client's PD was very helpful in providing significant paperwork to support his SSI claim. This paperwork included evidence that the client has an IQ of 54 and can only read at a first grade level. None of these cognitive deficits were known to his District Office staff. This additional information and the paperwork that the PD had, including psychological reports, made his case much stronger. The client was recently accepted as a consumer at the Regional Center due to his severe developmental delays. The client was also approved for SSI! This is proof that with great support, dedication, and collaboration of DPSS-PD staff improves chances of SSI approval for Needs Special Assistance participants.

We would like to acknowledge and give special recognition to Metro East, Compton, Metro Special and collaborating districts in their efforts to support the PD project and help the severely disabled. The DPSS-PD Project has demonstrated the ability to identify severely mentally and physically disabled participants that do not have the ability to come through our GR Offices and we are thankful of our collaborators that have facilitated this process. Within this population, we are proud to say that we have also identified Veterans who have served in the military and are being served through our project!

GOT H.ELP?

H.ELP One-Year Anniversary:



The Enterprise Linkages Project (H.ELP) is nearing its first year anniversary. We thank all the GR Eligibility Workers, Social Workers, and GROW Workers for reaching out to thousands of GR participants in all GR Districts to promote H.ELP. Starting at zero early last year, the ELP database has grown to more than nine thousand GR participants. The H.ELP database is adding hundreds of new participants each month!

GR Districts have been doing a great job reaching out to GR participants and explaining the benefits of having the participant's worker review county usage history from the seven Departments participating in H.ELP. The worker will use the H.ELP review process to determine which services or programs are best suited for the participant. By signing the H.ELP authorization form, Participants are empowering themselves by allowing DPSS staff to review critical data that can be used for referrals to SSI, housing and employment. Before H.ELP, this important data was not available to assist participants.

More and more workers are seeing the potential of reviewing participant service history in H.ELP and are incorporating H.ELP reviews when participants are in the District. Social Workers who have been seeing clients for years can now review H.ELP for medical/mental health history from Departments of Health Services and Mental Health to make a stronger SSI application. SSI Advocates are feeling better about their jobs because they can make a positive difference using H.ELP. Based on feedback from our line staff, we know that H.ELP has the potential to strengthen the participant's SSI application.

Congratulations to everyone in GR for providing excellent customer service by asking participants to sign up for H.ELP. The second year H.ELP anniversary promises to be more successful than the first year, with thousands of GR participants transitioning to SSI, accepting housing assistance and obtaining employment.

Full Service Partnerships & SSIMAP

Full Service Partnerships (FSPs):

Department of Mental Health (DMH) has agreed to provide 50 FSP slots for GR participants with serious and persistent mental illness. The FSP is a special treatment program funded by the Mental Health Services Act, which is funded by California's Millionaires. It is designed to assist some of the hard to serve GR participants who may be homeless, and even resistant to assistance.

These individuals will be sought among those referred for the Mental Health Comprehensive Evaluations. The DMH Psychologists will try to connect potential candidates with DMH FSP staff while doing the evaluation. DPSS will connect these participants to SSIMAP staff in an effort to assist them obtain SSI benefits, while they participate in FSP. Finding and assisting these participants will be very rewarding!

If you have any success stories of participants who received services from the Enterprise Linkages Program or the Housing Subsidy Program, please email your stories to the GR & CAPI Programs Section, to Elvia Martinez, Secretary II.
Edited by GR & CAPI Programs Section Staff.

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